

ELIZABETH PICKETT

hairline fracture

the ribs are a fragile cage
for the heart's urgings

your boney skullcap
hot brain
firing nerves
eyes, brow, hands

tongue, lashings of teeth-
scarred knuckle, muscle
control, those abs
pecs, the six-pack
punches

through bruised organs
hear their music
in her ears and heart's distal
pulse, an ancient cadence

fists
face
feinting

bloodlines traced
back to the cave
beneath fractured ridges
into the bone

Elizabeth Pickett's poetry appears earlier in this volume.

JOANNA M. WESTON

Listening In

*for Anne Szumigalski 'The Holy
Fountain' in 'Woman reading in bath', p.54*

how did she know the girls
walking by the river
were virgins?

did she ask
'have you had your first man?'

did she guess from their closed hips
that they had never opened
to passion and surprise?

did she know their breasts
small in tight white bras
were yet untouched?

did she eavesdrop
on their verbal
virginity?

Joanna Weston's poetry appears earlier in this volume.

SHEILAGH'S BRUSH

A NOVEL BY
MAURA HANRAHAN



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On the cusp of the Depression, Sheilagh Driscoll, of isolated Rennie's Bay, nearly dies while giving birth prematurely to baby Leah. Sheilagh is attended by a traditional midwife, Mrs. Mary, as well as by Leah Clarke, a nurse-midwife from England. Traumatized by the birth, Sheilagh learns about age-old ways of preventing pregnancy. The result is an awakening that impacts on Sheila's relationship with all the women around her, especially her younger sister Claire.

Maura Hanrahan is the author, co-author, or editor of ten books in several genres. Her writing has won awards in Canada, Britain and the U.S., including: 2007 Good Read Novel Competition: Honourable Distinction for Sheilagh's Brush (then unpublished novel); and the 2005 History and Heritage Award for Tsunami: The Newfoundland Tidal Wave Disaster. She is a member of the Sip'kop Mi'kmaq Band and lives in St. John's with her husband, the novelist, Paul Butler.

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